

Flathead County Emergency Medical Services Administrative Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 1:00pm

Flathead County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 625 Timberwolf Parkway

Members Present: Mary Granger, James Brower, Dr. Briles, Jordan Owen, Amy Vanterpool and Jacob Pitcher called in on GoTo meetings

Others Present: Jennifer Rau, Juanita Nelson, Amy Beick, Warren Davis

1. **Call to Order** Meeting was called to order by GRANGER at 1:00 pm without Ryan Pitts
2. **Roll Call** missing Ryan Pitts
3. **Approval of Agenda** 1:01 pm BROWER moved to accept the Agenda as posted. PITCHER seconded. Approved.
4. **Approval of Previous Minutes** 1:01pm VANTERPOOL moved to approve minutes from January 12, 2021. BROWER seconded. Approved.
5. **Public Comment for Items Not Listed on Agenda** None
6. **Financial Report** 1:02 pm – Presented by Juanita Nelson
 - 2272 cash balance is at 32.44%, a new computer purchased for the Admin Assistant was mentioned
 - 2273 cash balance is a little lower than last month at 20.94%
 - Fund 4019 will be used to help pay for another boiler for the building
7. **EMS Advisory Committee Report**–1:05pm Presented by Amy Beick
 - Advisory Committee met in February and elected new officers. Katie Mast and Amy Beick are co-chairs. The Minimum Certifications per License Provider Policy was discussed. AHA as the standard was supported. Committee wanted to see EMTs have some sort of trauma level. Allow 18 months for paramedics to get PHTLS.
 - 8 agencies attended. Creston Fire, Whitefish Fire, Kalispell Fire, Bad Rock Fire, Coram/West Glacier Fire, Blacktail QRU were not at the meeting. Minutes are emailed to all agency heads.
 - EMS Board Response
Discussion was had regarding PHTLS being appropriate for EMTs, the impact of the standards beginning, as well as how many people would be affected.
 - Recommendation of the Advisory Committee is to have all EMS in the county have these standards.
8. **EMS Program Manager Report**–1:18pm Presented by Jordan Owen
 - Medical Special ALS
Averaging 3 calls/day, considering dropping this CFS type or making a med special BLS
Protocols currently in place should cover the precautions for covid. Covid protocols/practices wouldn't change, only drop Covid dispatch. OWEN will work with dispatch to drop it.
 - Blacktail QRU Accreditation
Still not compliant, OWEN has spoken with them numerous times. BRILES will get more involved and make a call. They signed an MOU and are receiving money.
 - MDT
OWEN is waiting for Tyler technologies to set up a tech to help set up the CAD and devices.
9. **EMS Medical Director Report** 1:28pm Presented by Dr. Briles
 - Lincoln County and Eureka
Lincoln County and Eureka have not been following through with calls. Whitefish has had to cover for them. Joe Page said they will continue to respond. Whitefish has one ambulance. When they are responding to these calls, someone else has to cover their area.
 - Covid Diversion
BRILES thinks Covid patients are still going to KRMHC. He will check with PITTS. BRILES would like northern units to contact North Valley Hospital and give them the option to take those patients.
 - Scaling Back Covid Protocols
BRILES thinks it is about time to start scaling back. All EMS have been given the option to get the vaccine. Considering reinstating some invasive procedures including intubation and nebulizer treatments with PPE in another month if not another Covid spike. BRILES encourages all EMS providers to be vaccinated, about 30%

have been. A memo would go out to encourage people to get vaccinated before making this roll back on policy. Other places in Montana don't consider aerosolizing procedures to be exposure if the appropriate levels of PPE are used. VANTERPOOL: No protocols have changed at the hospitals. They have been following CDC recommendations. There are no indications restrictions will change. Alert requires intubation for its flights.

10. Approval of Minimum Certifications per License Provider 1:40pm

- PITCHER moved to approve the policy "Minimum Certifications per License Provider." BROWER seconded. Discussion ensued. Concern was raised regarding communication of this new policy to providers and if there was a plan in place. OWEN explained there is a timeline, the County can buy classes and send out surveys to arrange the best dates and places to host classes. Providers are contacted directly from the County. Concern was also raised regarding which agencies were involved in reviewing this policy at the Advisory Committee and how to involve more. Agencies involved were paid and volunteer. BRILES supports this policy if this is what the Advisory Committee wants. AYE: PITCHER, VANTERPOOL, GRANGER. BROWER abstained. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Accreditation and Badging of EMS Personnel 1:52pm

- BROWER moved to approve the policy "Accreditation and Badging of EMS Personnel." VANTERPOOL seconded. Discussion. Concern was raised regarding when personnel need to be certified with AHA and the deadline of September 2021. The process of communication with providers and the role of the Advisory Committee was discussed. The Advisory Committee has been focused on chiefs and delegates not individual providers. The Advisory Committee Agenda could be sent out to all providers. AYE: BROWER, VANTERPOOL, PITCHER, GRANGER. Motion passed.

12. Review Draft MCI policy 2:05pm

- OWEN gave an overview of the policy. It has been reviewed by the Advisory Committee, the hospital, and dispatch. An MCI tabletop exercise is being considered pre June/ and an in person exercise post September to work around fire season. BROWER requested a copy of the policy.
- The process of policy review and revision was discussed. A draft policy goes through Advisory Committee, Dr. Briles, and the EMS board for consideration and adjustments. Discussion ensued regarding participation in this process, how to involve more people, and raise the awareness of what is being worked on. More communication was encouraged including adding a new folder to the app with draft policies so providers can see what is being worked on. Adding a section to the newsletter describing what is being worked on was also recommended.

13. Future Agenda Items 2:21pm

14. Board Member Comments 2:22pm none

15. Future Meeting Date 2:22pm March 9,2021 cancelled

16. Adjournment 2:22pm